

Undergraduate Committee Task Force Sub-Committee (Current Practices)

Civic Engagement and Service Learning

In 2005 the Office of Community Service (OCS) was moved from the Office of Student Activities to the Office of Community Service as part of the Center for Leadership and Service (CLS).

Civic Engagement and Service Learning

Center for Leadership and Service housed in the Dean of Students Office serves as the umbrella support system for organized service groups and projects. Data collected in the last two years since the current Director has been in place include:

(2007-2008)

- 13,103 students engaged in community service of any kind
 - 12,351 engaged in community service
 - 752 engaged in academic service learning
- 3,924 students engaged in at least 20 hours of community service per semester
- 75,205 total hours of community service performed

(2006-2007)

- 12,435 students engaged in community service of any kind
 - 11,792 engaged in community service
 - 643 engaged in academic service learning
- 3,891 engaged in at least 20 hours of community service per semester
- 72,081 total hours of community service performed

Ongoing organizations/activities include:

- **ACTIONS!** is committed to sponsoring ongoing long-term and short-term service projects aimed at encouraging active citizenship in response to campus, local, state, or national initiatives. **ACTIONS!** sponsors the following projects and/or involvement of the UF community:
 - Gator Plunge
 - Hunger and Homelessness Week
 - Make a Difference Day
 - Raise Your Voice: A Month of Action
 - ServeFest (kickoff for Raise Your Voice)
 - World Aids Day
 - Summer Plunge
- **After School Gators** work with elementary school children who are placed at-risk for academic failure or social difficulties by volunteering as tutors

- and/or activity leaders Monday-Friday, between 2 and 5:30p. Each volunteer is asked to commit two hours per week at one of five sites.
- **Florida Alternative Breaks** are organized service opportunities that are completed over spring, summer, winter, and weekend breaks, both local and international. Past trips have been to Atlanta, New Orleans, Washington DC, and Costa Rica. Experiences have involved serving in medical facilities, rebuilding homes, constructing playgrounds, and other social issues. Participants incur costs for housing, meals, and transportation.
 - **Project Mentoring Alliance: Students and Communities Outreaching Together (MASCOT)** provides a mentor to a student identified as at-risk for academic or social challenges at a designated elementary school for approximately 30 minutes each week. The organization partners with **Collegiates Helping As Mentors in Public Schools (CHAMPS)** and all mentors and student mentees participate in a field trip to a Florida theme park at the end of the school year. Members pay dues.
 - **Service Ambassadors** serve as a liaison between UF service organizations and the local community. Their goal is to promote citizenship among students. Their programs include:
 - Milk, Cookies, & Social Change: Can I Have Seconds?
 - Desserts for Change
 - **Strengthening Opportunities And Reaching out (SOAR) at Howard Bishop** volunteers mentor a student identified as placed at-risk for academic and/or social failure. Students commit to spend a minimum of one hour a week with a student at Howard Bishop Middle School.

Individual College/School Initiatives

Service Learning

It is important to make the distinction between community service and service learning. The former refers to projects that are more charitable in nature and is usually experiential rather than pedagogical as is the latter. Service learning is a pedagogy that integrates an intentional academic engagement within the process of serving. The outcome is more mutually beneficial, students are academically engaged and earn academic credit, and are exposed to social justice issues on a broader scale as a result.

Currently, the website of the Office of Sustainability has extensive information on related service learning courses and opportunities, and centers and faculty who engage in the work.

- There are close to 40 course offerings listed in studying sustainability
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences programs offering service-learning include Sociology and African American Studies
- College of Education involves first semester pre-service teachers in a service learning project that involves tutoring/mentoring a child living in a local public housing neighborhood

Still attempting to gather data on service learning on a college-by-college basis. The CLS is working on a database to centralize service learning course opportunities to provide more specific information.